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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 24th and 27th meetings, on 22 November and 7 December 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.24 and 27).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/521 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/575).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.10

4. At its 27th meeting, on 7 December 2006, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" (A/C.5/61/L.10), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Philippines.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.10 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1710 (2006) of 29 September 2006,

Recalling its resolution 55/237 of 23 December 2000 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 60/272 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 30 September 2006, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 49.2 million United States dollars, representing some 4.4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full and urges all other Member States to make every

[1] A/61/521 and Corr.1.

[2] A/61/575.

possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/266;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the recent reconfiguration and reduction in the strength of the Mission, to rejustify all posts and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the context of the budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

Revised budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

14. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation of 174,679,200 dollars authorized for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 under the terms of its resolution 60/272 by the amount of 37,294,100 dollars, to 137,385,100 dollars;

15. *Also decides* to reduce the amount of staff assessment income for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 from 3,563,700 dollars to 2,751,000 dollars;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 53,824,800 dollars, inclusive of the amount of 3,121,550 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 657,750 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base, at a monthly rate of 8,970,800 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007, in addition to the amount of 91,118,900 dollars already apportioned for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2007, as set out in its resolution _____of _____December 2006;[3]

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,370,050 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 969,150 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 351,100 dollars approved for the support account and the prorated share of 49,800 dollars approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

20. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its resumed sixty-first session.

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[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.